

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing unread electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;
providing, at a location on a visual display the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received, the first indicator including a count to indicate the and an associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received;
enabling scanning of the unread electronic messages received without reading; and
selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling review of summaries of unread electronic messages received without opening the unread electronic messages; and
altering said first indicator to provide, a second indicator at the location on the visual display that provides home screen, a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation by altering said first indicator that new unread electronic messages have been received since the unread electronic messages received were last scanned following display of the message listing.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of managing unread electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;

~~providing, at a location on a visual display the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received, the first indicator including a count to indicate and an associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received;~~

~~enabling scanning of the unread electronic messages received without reading; and~~

selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling review of summaries of unread electronic messages received without opening the unread electronic messages; and

~~generating a second indicator at, or proximate to, the location on the visual display that provides home screen, to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation by altering said the first indicator with the non-numerical annunciation to reflect that new electronic messages have been received since the unread electronic messages received were last scanned without reading, following display of the message listing.~~

~~wherein the step of providing said first indicator of the presence of unread electronic messages received comprises providing the visual display indicating the presence of unread electronic messages received,~~

~~wherein the step of generating said second indicator that new electronic messages have been received comprises altering the visual display,~~

~~wherein the second indicator is provided in place of, or proximate to, the first indicator, and~~

~~wherein providing the visual display indicating the presence of unread electronic messages received comprises providing an icon indicating the presence of unread electronic messages received and altering the visual display comprises altering the icon to indicate the presence of new electronic messages received.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:
displaying an icon with the first and second indicators; and
~~wherein altering the icon comprises at least one selected from the group comprising: by flashing, bolding, changing the size, and changing the color of the icon.~~
6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein altering the visual display comprises further comprising:
adding indicia to said the first indicator.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of providing a visual display comprises providing an unread mail icon indicating the presence of unread electronic messages along with the count of unread electronic messages, and altering the first indicator the display to indicate the presence of new unread electronic messages received comprises altering at least one of the unread mail icon and the count.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for managing electronic messages received, comprising:

a visual display;

a home screen displaying one or more icons corresponding to functions that can be performed by the system;

a message list listing providing summaries of each of unread electronic messages received ~~with identification of those that are unread without opening the unread electronic messages~~;

input means for selectively displaying the message list listing on the visual display for scanning for unread messages received;

a first indicator at a location on the display home screen for indicating the presence of a number of unread messages, ~~the first indicator including a count to indicate and an associated value reflecting~~ the number of unread electronic messages received; and

a second indicator at, or proximate, to the location on the display comprising an alteration to said home screen that alters the first indicator which provides to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation of reflecting the presence of new unread electronic messages received ~~since the message list was last displayed without reading, following display of the message listing~~.

~~and wherein the second indicator is provided in place of, or proximate to, the first indicator.~~

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11, wherein the visually distinguishable annunciation of the presence of new unread electronic messages received comprises an alteration to the count of unread electronic messages received.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13, wherein the alteration to the count comprises at least one of:

bolding the count, flashing the count, changing the size of the count and changing the color of the count.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the second indicator comprises additional indicia on the display.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11, wherein the second indicator comprises a message icon on the display adjacent the count of unread electronic messages received, and the annunciation of the presence of new unread electronic messages received since the message list was last displayed comprises altering the message icon.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 16, wherein the altering the message icon comprises at least one of:

bolding the icon, flashing the icon, changing the size of the icon and changing the color of the icon.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of managing unread electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;
providing, at a location on a visual display the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received, the first indicator including a count to indicate and a first associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received;
~~enabling scanning of the unread electronic messages received without reading; and~~
selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling review of summaries of unread electronic messages received without opening the unread electronic messages;
providing a second indicator at the location on the visual display home screen, the second indicator including a count to indicate reflecting the number of new unread electronic messages received and an indication that at least one of the unread electronic messages has been received since the unread electronic messages received were last scanned following display of the message listing.

20. (New) A method of managing unread electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;

providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received, and an associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received;

selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling review of summaries of the unread electronic messages received without opening of the unread electronic messages;

altering the first indicator to provide, at the location on the home screen, a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that new unread electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing; and

updating the associated value to provide a single value simultaneously reflecting the number of unread electronic messages and the number of new unread electronic message received following display of the message listing.

21. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining a Boolean value associated with the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation; and

triggering the Boolean value, upon receipt of the new unread electronic messages following display of the message listing, to control displaying of the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation.